

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 678

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Mark Joseph Laabs,  
2002 Salutatorian of White Station High School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mark Joseph Laabs is one such exceptional student who was recently named Salutatorian of the 2002 graduating class at White Station High School; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Mark has achieved outstanding academic success, and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, in his remarkable high school career, he has earned an exemplary 5.304 Grade Point Average; and

WHEREAS, due to his outstanding commitment to academic excellence, Mr. Laabs has earned numerous honors and awards, including the Rensselaer Mathematics and Science Award and the National Latin Exam Gold Medal; he was also selected as a Boys' State Delegate and was a National Merit Semifinalist; and

WHEREAS, a gifted scholar and distinguished member of the National Honor Society, Mark has earned several commendations for his exemplary efforts in academic competitions,

including The Best State Entry for the National History Day Competition; Second Place in the State History Day Competition; First Place in Bioprocess Lab, Second Place in Experimental Design and Third Place in Water Quality for the State Science Olympiad; Fifth Place in the TMTA Geometry Competition and First Place in Hellenics at the Latin Club State Convention; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these honors, Mark has excelled in many other academic competitions, including the Atlantic-Pacific Math Competition, the Mandelbrot Competition, the Beta Club State Convention, the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association Competition and the Language Arts Olympiad; and

WHEREAS, a multi-talented individual, Mark possesses tremendous athletic ability; as he is a valuable member of his school's Swim Team and earned the Best All-Around Swimmer Award in 2001; and

WHEREAS, highly respected as a leader among his peers, Mr. Laabs is active in numerous academic and civic organizations, including the National Latin Honor Society, the Science Olympiad Team, the American Regions Math Team, the National Beta Club, the Facing History and Ourselves program and the Latin Club; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as the Co-Chairperson of the International Fair and Retreat Chair; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Mark participates in numerous community service organizations, including the March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS, Mark is an active member of the Boy Scouts of America and has earned distinction as an Eagle Scout; his exceptional leadership abilities have enabled him to perform numerous valuable services within the community, including serving as Scoutmaster for minority outreach Boy Scout Troop 756; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized by *Who's Who Among American High School Students* for his dedication to scholastic achievement and his commitment to community service; and

WHEREAS, a young man of impeccable character, Mr. Laabs is an integral part of his church's Youth Group, and he has participated in mission trips and urban outreach programs; and

WHEREAS, Mark Joseph Laabs' display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for his future success; and

WHEREAS, Mark's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for his parents, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Laabs' dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor 2002 White Station High School Salutatorian, Mark Joseph Laabs, on his impressive academic achievement, and extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.